



Online Connections

College of Education—DSU

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Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the second edition of the College of Education online newsletter. What a great time of year, an opportunity to spend time with family and friends, reflect on the past year, and to welcome the New Year.



Jenna Yost

Two weeks ago, DSU celebrated its fall graduation with 25 graduates from the College of Education. In fact, the student speaker this fall was Jenna Yost an elementary education/special education major graduating Summa Cum Laude. Way to go Jenna! We are also delighted to report that a number of these fall graduates have already secured teaching jobs or long-term subbing positions in various school districts in the area.

In this edition, we have again gathered a compilation of some of the events and activities occurring within the College of Education. Our programs are grounded in real life situations including field experiences and student teaching for our education majors and practicums and internship opportunities for our exercise science majors. Our objective is to reflect the relevance essential to be truly useful in helping improve the work of practitioners and professionals in the field. Our faculty highlight in this edition is Dr. Vicki Sterling who has epitomized this objective over the years through hands-on activities in every class she teaches. Another example demonstrating this objective includes the four faculty members chosen as “South Dakota Verizon Thinkfinity Trainers of the Year”. Drs. Sterling, Wiken, Nash, and Geary each semester conduct an in-depth training on the use of the Verizon Thinkfinity free online resources to DSU Level III students as part of their methods courses. These students are then prepared to incorporate the 21st century classroom skills into their student teaching experience.

While we celebrate the efforts of our faculty and students, we also recognize and thank our donors who continue to support College of Education programs, endowments, and scholarships. This continued support of the scholarship program allows the College to assist students complete their



Message from the Dean cont. . . .



Casey Michel

degrees and lessen their debt upon graduation. I had the pleasure of sitting with two of our scholarship recipients, Bradi Jorgensen and Casey Michel, this fall at the Scholarship Banquet. They will do well in the teaching profession.



Bradi Jorgensen

The College of Education is very excited to pilot a Professional Development School (PDS) model next year for seven elementary education majors. This program is a yearlong residency program in which students will be placed in one of three elementary schools in Sioux Falls for the entirety of their senior year. During their last two semesters, the semesters including Level III courses and student teaching, students will be placed with a mentor teacher and will remain in that classroom throughout the school year. This PDS model is a collaborative program with one of our sister institutions and so faculty from both institutions will travel to Sioux Falls to deliver content courses. Students and mentor teachers will also participate in a co-teaching workshop which will be an important element for this model. There are a number of advantages to this new model but most importantly students will have much more time in the classroom which will enhance classroom skills and provide better preparation for the first year of teaching. Another significant advantage is that methods courses will be more meaningful due to the immediate application of strategies into the lessons. While this model has been used in other states, it is a new model for elementary education majors in the state of South Dakota and so we are very excited to be a leader in the implementation of this program.

I am pleased to share this publication with you, and if you are interested in what we do or have questions or comments, we welcome inquiries about our endeavors. Please let us know where you are and what you are doing, we love hearing from you.

South Dakota Verizon Thinkfinity Trainers of the Year



Vicki Sterling, Jennifer Nash & Don Wiken . Not pictured: Mark Geary

Students in the Dakota State University College of Education are going to be walking into their classrooms next fall ready to access web 2.0 tools to enhance their teaching, engage students in the learning, and increase student understanding of the content. Thanks to the efforts of professors Vicki Sterling, Jennifer Nash, Don Wiken, and Mark Geary, the pre-service students have been provided indepth training on the use of the Verizon Thinkfinity free online resources. (www.thinkfinity.org)

Sterling, Nash, Wiken, and Geary participated in the Verizon Thinkfinity Train the Trainer program in 2009 through a statewide effort by Technology and Innovation in Education (TIE) to develop Thinkfinity resource expertise in South Dakota universities. The goal is to prepare future teachers in the use of 21st century classroom skills so they come in ready to teach the first day of class. (<http://thinkfinity.tie.net>)

These professors influence future teachers in all grade levels and content areas. Nash works with middle school/high school science teachers and the Imagination Summer Program for students in grades 2-6. Sterling's reading program has been a study in incorporating reading strategies into all content subjects. Wiken has been focused on visual literacy in the math area for students in the K-8 classroom. They have joined forces with Geary to train the DSU education students in Thinkfinity. As a result, students receive an introduction to Thinkfinity during their methods classes, with the complete Thinkfinity training taken in the semester before student teaching.

Thinkfinity Cont.

Sterling, who teaches the reading and language arts method classes at Dakota State, has been combining the teaching of reading and technology for 25 years. "Reading and writing takes practice and the technology helps motivate students." Over the years, she has presented at numerous local, state, and national events, including the TIE conference and the International Reading Council. Vicki states, "Thinkfinity has been exciting to use because of the wealth of free resources for the teacher and student."

Nash is part of College of Education Faculty at DSU as a science education specialist. She teaches science methods courses for K-12 pre-service teachers as well as science content courses. Jennifer states, "I love to use and share the resources of Thinkfinity with my college students because it is free and has amazing resources for almost any audience interested in education - children, parents, teachers, pre-service teachers, and the general public."

Wiken teaches the math education courses in the college of education at DSU. He states, "Thinkfinity is an excellent online resource which I use in my classes to demonstrate some of the online interactive tools available. We also do an end of the semester training session for our students who are going to be student teaching in the coming semester. It is a great resource."

Verizon Thinkfinity is the Verizon Foundation's nationally recognized signature initiative for education and literacy. In 2009, the Verizon Foundation awarded \$67.9 million in grants to nonprofit agencies in the U.S. and abroad. It also matched the charitable donations of Verizon employees and retirees, resulting in an additional \$26.1 million in combined contributions to nonprofits.

Online Secondary Education Certification

The Online Secondary Education Certification program allows individuals with previous baccalaureate degrees in a SD certification area to become teachers. Those with degrees in biology, business, computer, English, math, or physical education can complete a 44-credit program leading to certification as a South Dakota teacher. The program began as a collaborative effort between the Colleges of Education at DSU, NSU, SDSU, USD, and BHSU. Students complete a rotation of education pedagogy courses, practicum experiences, and student teaching.

The program is very popular among mid-career professionals, partially due to the online delivery. Anyone interested in more information should contact Dr. Pauli at 605/256-5177 or Crystal.Pauli@dsu.edu.

New Faculty Member in Exercise Science Program

Dr. Scott Staiger joined the College of Education in August 2010 as an Assistant Professor of Exercise Science. Scott earned his doctorate of Human Development and Education with a wellness emphasis from North Dakota State University. Prior to coming to DSU, he served as a visiting Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Exercise Science at Oklahoma City University in Oklahoma City, OK. He also served as an Assistant Professor in Human Development at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, AL. Welcome to DSU, Scott!



Dr. Scott Staiger

Faculty News

Dr. Vicki Sterling is a name that brings instant recognition to the College of Education and Dakota State University. She began her career here as a student and then became a faculty member in 1977. She has long believed that DSU students need the hands-on experiences to make them better teachers. Because of this philosophy, every class she teaches has an attached field experience. For example, in her Language Arts class Dr. Sterling's students use the 6 Trait ® Writing Model of Instruction and Assessment tool to evaluate elementary students writing skills. After her students review the results of the test, they plan learning activities to guide elementary students writing skills.



Dr. Vicki Sterling

In Dr. Sterling's Reading Methods course, her students teach reading to kindergarten through fifth grade students for 30 minutes every Friday. The students are in small groups so the college students are able to watch the progress of their students and plan accordingly for the entire semester. In the Diagnosis and Correction class, her students have an opportunity to work with fourth graders in small groups. Dr. Sterling's students conduct individual assessments by administering the Bader Informal Reading Inventory Test to measure fourth graders reading ability and then they teach reading skills on Monday and Wednesday to strengthen student's reading ability. A particular plus with this course is that students teach reading strategies within the content of areas such as science and social studies. The Guided Reading class offers another type of opportunity in which Dr. Sterling's students are placed with a classroom teacher and work 1-on-1. The student may teach a lesson to the entire class or they might gain the experience of conducting small group lessons.

Dr. Sterling enriches her students' academic experiences in many other ways including traveling to China for a summer to work with Chinese teachers on strategies they can use in their classrooms to teach English. She also has her students email university students in China so they can learn how to communicate with English as Second Language (ESL) students.

She believes it is important that students leaving DSU's elementary education and elementary/special education programs know how to use multiple assessment tools. In addition to the 6 Trait ® Writing Model of Instruction and Assessment and Bader Informal Reading Inventory Test, students administer DIBELS which is used to test kindergarten and first grade word skills and listening skills. DSU students learn to administer The Writing Fluency CAFÉ test which helps teachers understand words fourth graders know by having them write as many words as they can in 10 minutes.

To keep abreast of current research from the International Reading Association, students subscribe to "The Reading Teacher Journal". They are then asked to lead class discussions on current research articles. Dr. Sterling believes this is important as it helps students realize that teaching is a lifelong learning process and they will need to continually research for best teaching practices. Students are also asked to review numerous textbooks so when asked by their principal to help choose the next reading books for their school, they have already had experience in how to review textbooks and can make good choices to accomplish that goal.

Dr. Sterling has a remarkable record of service to the university. In 2007 she was chosen by her university peers to receive The DeWayne Mork Award for Excellence in Service. She chairs the COE faculty development activities as well as co-chairing the COE Technology/Diversity Conference and Women's Day Conference. She has been a coordinator for the Women's Day Conference since its beginning 26 years ago. In the late 1990's, she was asked to coordinate the College of Education LOFTI grant. The grant made it possible for university faculty to establish common goals for professional development in technology and to create partnerships between school districts and the university. As part of this grant, the COE purchased SmartBoards, palm pilots, webcams and slate computers. It was the beginning of the technology age for the College of Education at DSU.

Dr. Sterling Cont.

Dr. Sterling has a commitment to authentic strategies and field experiences in literacy that are especially noteworthy and demonstrates her commitment to helping teacher candidates connect “theory to practice”. One of her students said it best: “Dr. Sterling did an amazing job with this class. I enjoyed coming to class because I knew I was going to learn something that I would need later on in life. I wrote down everything she said because I always wanted to remember it. She had fun activities and when she read books, I was excited. She is an excellent teacher and I am glad she still teaches!”

Dr. Nash Receives the DeWayne Mork Award for Excellence in Service

At the spring 2010 Legends & Legacy banquet, Dr. Jennifer Nash received the DeWayne Mork Award for Excellence in Service. Jennifer is an Assistant Professor of Science Education with the College of Education. A graduate of Minnesota State University-Mankato and the University of Minnesota, she teaches science methods courses and science content courses to elementary, special and secondary education students. She has served as Program Director of Camp Invention, a summer enrichment program for elementary children, has provided professional development to K-12 teachers, and is the faculty mentor to the DSU student chapter of the South Dakota Education Association. She also serves on the following DSU Committees: Professional Education Council, College of Education Assessment Coordinating Committee, Institutional Effectiveness Committee, Women’s Day Committee, and Graduate Council. She has been with DSU since 2005.



Dr. Jennifer Nash



Spotlight on Cooperating Teachers

Eric Knight is in his sixth year as a 4th grade teacher at Chester Area School, graduating from DSU in Elementary Education. Along with teaching 4th grade, Eric is the assistant football coach and head boys basketball coach in Chester. After graduating from DSU, he took one semester off and began working on a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction at South Dakota State University. One masters degree was not enough of a challenge for this hard-working teacher; he will graduate in the summer of 2011 with a masters degree in Educational Administration, also from SDSU.

Eric is married to Terri, and they have two children. Luke is 4 years old and Ellie is 6 months old. The Knight family is in the process of adopting a child from Ethiopia. Besides a busy professional and personal life, Eric and his family find time to enjoy attending baseball games and camping. He personally enjoys incorporating new technologies into his classroom. “The skills gained at DSU, especially in the areas of technology in the classroom, have really set me apart from others in the field,” shared Eric.



Eric Knight pictured with his son, Luke; daughter, Ellie; and wife Terri

Thank you for being a cooperating teacher, Eric! Education students in your classroom learn more than just classroom procedures. They learn about the heart it takes to be a teacher.

Spotlight on Cooperating Teachers Continued . . .

Barb Meyer has been teaching in Rutland since 1984, and has served as a cooperating teacher for several DSU education majors over the years. Barb was born and raised on the family farm near Wagner, SD where she resided with her parents, grandparents, and a younger brother and sister. She received her elementary degree with Kindergarten endorsement from USD and began her first teaching job in Egan, SD. Barb received a Library minor and served as the Rutland librarian on a part-time basis when she first started teaching Kindergarten in the district. At that time, Kindergarten was three days a week. “In about 1993, Rutland went from 3-day a week Kindergarten classes to full-time. I just loved this; more time to do fun little things instead of just academics,” Barb shares.

Barb, and husband, George were married in 1979, and have three sons; Tony, Joshua, and Daniel. They moved to Madison when George secured a position at the Madison Community Hospital. Prior to teaching in Rutland, Barb had an in-home day care of 10 extra children!

They Meyer family expanded in 2007 to include Tony’s new wife, Kristi Hagemann. The family’s first grandchild was born in 2008. Braylee Emma is a hit with her grandma, who likes to take her on fun little trips! When Barb isn’t teaching, or enjoying Braylee Emma, she can be found enjoying family activities, landscaping her yard, tutoring kids in the summer, and walking with her two Springers, Molly and Jack. Barb has helped with the After Care program in Rutland since it started about 10 years ago.



Barb Meyer and granddaughter, Braylee

Barb enjoys working with teacher education students from DSU – she says they rejuvenate her. Thank you, Barb, for being a DSU cooperating teacher!

Monica Demaray is in her 10th year as an elementary special education teacher at McCook Central School District in Salem. She has mentored several Level I and Level III students, as well as student teachers for DSU. Monica is a graduate of Ramona High School, and attended SDSU for a Bachelor of Arts degree in music. She later came to DSU and completed the elementary/special education program. Monica’s most recent academic achievement is the completion of a Master of Arts degree in Special Education -Advanced Specialist from USD in 2010.



Monica Demaray

Monica lives near Ramona on land homesteaded by the Demaray family. She is married to husband, Floyd, and they have three children and three granddaughters. In her spare time, Monica likes to garden, knit, and go camping. Favorite activities include picking raspberries with her granddaughters and eating s’mores around the campfire with family.

Monica shares a favorite quote by Maya Angelou: “I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better.” Monica states, “This quote has kept me going. Every student that receives special education services has unique strengths and needs. I have become more comfortable with the fact that I do not have all the answers, or even some of the answers. But since I want to make a difference in the life of each student, and help that student become the best that he or she can be, I do have the determination to find out what might be a better strategy or intervention to try today.”

Thank you, Monica, for sharing your classroom and your expertise with our teacher education students!

University Supervisors

Charlotte Groce started working as a University Supervisor in the College of Education in 2005, shortly after retiring from a long and successful career in teaching and school administration. Charlotte graduated from DSU with an elementary education degree and went on to get a masters in Educational Administration from SDSU. Her teaching career began at Orland Elementary, then St. Thomas Elementary. In 1981, Charlotte became the elementary principal at St. Thomas School, a position she held until her retirement.



Charlotte Groce

“As an administrator, I realize only too well that we are not just moving children around from one grade to another; we are building for their future as well. We are aiming at nurturing the personal and academic growth of the people who will make tomorrow better, and I am thankful and extremely proud that DSU has allowed me to continue to be a part of this process. The opportunity to impact the development of quality teachers in one I take humbly and very seriously,” commented Charlotte. “I’m enjoying my “retirement” years. It allows me the time to spend with my husband, Doug, and our children and grandchildren. I also get to spend more time on my passionate play: gardening, cooking, jewelry making, card making, stained glass, and crafts of all kinds.”

We are very fortunate to have Charlotte as one of our university supervisors. She is an excellent mentor to student teachers and helps them make the transition from college student to professional educator. Thank you, Charlotte!

Alumni News

Teresa Timmerman, a 2003 Dakota State University graduate, has been named the 2010 John W. Harris Teacher of the Year for the Sioux Falls School District.

Timmerman, originally from Canada, was recruited to play basketball at DSU. After graduating from DSU, she taught in Tracy, MN before joining the staff at Sioux Falls Lincoln High School. At Lincoln, Timmerman teaches algebra skills classes to struggling students and Advancement Placement statistics to high-achievers.

Timmerman received a master of administrative studies from the University of Sioux Falls and plans to leave active teaching at the end of the school year to pursue a Ph.D in math education at the University of Alberta. Her goal is to become a university professor and train the next generation of math teachers.



Student SDEA Awarded Grant to Bring Together Educators

The DSU student chapter of the South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) provides undergraduate students who are pursuing a career in education with professional experiences that focus on serving children. Membership is open to any Dakota State University student pursuing a career in education.

Nikki Beckett, the current student president of SDEA, led the development of a grant proposal that was awarded by the National Education Association to promote networking and relationship building between Dakota State University education majors, its faculty, and the local K-12 community. Grant funds will be used to host events that bring together educators in the community to discuss innovative methods by which SDEA could positively impact children and teachers in the local community as well as career-relevant education topics. It is expected that both of these activities will promote student membership in the organization and enhance professional experiences for its

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

CEC and SNAC Raising Awareness

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and Special Needs Awareness Club (SNAC) are raising



CEC and SNAC held their annual haunted house on October 27th. Close to 100 kids in the local community participated in Halloween themed games and really enjoyed the alien-themed haunted house!

awareness for individuals with disabilities. Joining CEC and SNAC is very easy and easy on your wallet. To join the national club, CEC, it is \$69 dollars a year. To join the local DSU club, SNAC, it is \$20 dollars a year. Meetings are held once a month in the Kennedy Center and e-mails with information regarding the next meeting's agenda are sent out prior to the meeting day.

CEC and SNAC have been out in the community and around campus bringing awareness to Madison citizens and DSU students with individuals who have disabilities. CEC and SNAC host an annual haunted house, work with Every Citizen Counts Organization (ECCO), INC. clients, and visit Children's Care Hospital and School (CCHS), among other various activities.

Our next upcoming activity is the Angel Tree which is located in the hallway of the Kennedy Center. Feel free to donate new or gently used hats, mittens, coats, boots, or any winter attire for all ages! The Angel Tree benefits families in the Madison community.

Physical Education

Physical Education majors at Dakota State University have taken the initiative of establishing a student organization for the purpose of providing opportunities for social interaction, professional development, and service learning. The PE Club is geared toward physical education majors and those interested in coaching, however, any interested person is welcome. The club is planning fundraisers, trips, workshops, and other possible social exchanges.

Club Leaders are:

- President: Amy Pheneger
- Vice President: Blake Miller
- Secretary: Adrian Logan
- Treasurer: David Souhrada
- Adviser: Dr. Gale Wiedow



Activities Fair—Fall 2010

The club currently is meeting monthly over the noon hour and is planning a 'Coaches Roundtable' at the beginning of the spring semester.

Contact information (email, phone, and/or business hours)

- Amy: ajpheneger@pluto.dsu.edu
- Dr. Wiedow: gale.wiedow@dsu.edu

Alumni Corner

2006

Mallory Hoekman (Elementary/Special Education) and her husband Austin, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail Marie who was born November 17th, 2010. She joins big brother, Paul at home in Harrisburg, SD. Mallory is currently taking some time off of teaching to spend time at home with her children.



2009

Lona Simon (Elementary Education) is proud to announce the birth of their baby Kenleigh Marie Simon on Wednesday, December 23, 2009.



Lance Wagner (Physical Education) is teaching Middle School computers in Benson, AZ. He is also the head Middle School basketball coach and the head varsity baseball coach.

Alumni Corner Cont. . .

2010

Darcie Beier (Elementary Education) is teaching in Platte, SD

Andrea Johnson (Computer Education) is teaching in Tea, SD

Jennifer Hojer (Elementary Education) is teaching in Hamlin, SD

Amanda Gilman (Elementary Education) is teaching in Madison, SD

Alyssa Meier (Physical Education) is teaching in Sioux Falls, SD

Matt Storm (Physical Education) is currently enrolled in the Master's of Computer Education Technology at DSU

Katie Schultz (Elementary/K-12 SPED) is teaching in the West Central School District

Brandon Deragisch (Elementary Education) is teaching in Brookings, SD

Nicole Horstman (Elementary Education) is teaching in Marion, SD

Samantha Moulton (Elementary Education) is teaching in Aberdeen, SD

Erica Anshutz (Elementary Education) is teaching in the Lead-Deadwood School District

Susie Hansen (Elementary Education) is teaching in Hamlin, SD

Amber Sherman (Elementary/K-8 SPED) is teaching in Wagner, SD

Tricia Boldt (Elementary Education) is teaching in Doland, SD

Erin Bergeleen (Math Education) is teaching in Wessington Springs, SD

Casey Materese (Elementary/K-8 SPED) is teaching in Madison, SD

Alexandra Rook (Elementary Education) is teaching in Sioux Falls, SD

Kari Michel (Elementary Education) is teaching in the Tri Valley School District

Tiffany Nelson (Elementary/K-8 SPED) is teaching in Bridgewater, SD

Katie Letsche (Elementary/K-8 SPED) is teaching in Lennox, SD

Eric Bauder (Physical Education) is teaching in Martin, SD

Candice VonEye (Elementary Education) is teaching in Colman, SD

Carrie Geistfeld (Elementary Education) is teaching in Flandreau, SD

Julie Palmlund (Elementary/K-8 SPED) is teaching in Harding County, SD





Questions?

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Quick Links

College of Education Homepage: <http://www.dsu.edu/educate/index.aspx>



For the 5th straight year, US News ranked Dakota State as the top public baccalaureate institution in the Midwest.

Stay in Touch

We would like to hear from you! Please send us news/information you would like to share:

Shelly.Rawstern@dsu.edu or send to the College of Education, 820 N. Washington Ave.,
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